



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

TASK FORCE HEADED BY ICE LEADS TO 7 ARRESTS **Predators and sex offenders among the arrested**

NEW CITY, NY – A Haitian national who sexually abused a 10-year-old girl and a Guatemalan national who forcibly touched a 9-year-old girl were among the seven criminal aliens arrested in Rockland County today by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as part of a cooperative enforcement action with the Rockland County Sheriff's Department, the Rockland County Probation Department and the Spring Valley Police Department.

With the exception of one alien with a prior conviction in Pennsylvania, all of the aliens arrested today had prior felony or misdemeanor convictions in Rockland County for offenses that range from rape and sexual abuse to endangering the welfare of a child. Their prior criminal convictions render these individuals deportable.

"We are committed to protecting our most vulnerable, our children," said Martin D. Ficke, ICE Special Agent-in-Charge in New York. "Predators and sex offenders are the scourge of our society. It is because of this that we will continue to work closely with our law enforcement partners to take these criminals who terrorize our community off our streets."

"These arrests are an important step in protecting the people of Rockland County," said Rockland Sheriff James F. Kralik. "The removal of these child predators and sex offenders from our community and their deportation back to their own countries is a positive example of the new federal effort, in conjunction with local authorities, to remove dangerous aliens from our communities and country. I am pleased with this initiative of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and look forward to a continuing joining effort on behalf of the people of Rockland County."

"My office is pleased and proud to work with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and our local law enforcement agencies to achieve a common goal which is to protect the citizens of our community," said Rockland County Probation Director Jacqueline Stormes.

Those arrested are from the following countries: Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Haiti, Mexico and Morocco. Among the arrested was:

- A citizen of the Dominican Republic who was convicted of forcible touching, sexual abuse and endangering the welfare of a 12-year-old girl.
- A citizen of Ecuador convicted of raping a 14-year old girl.
- A citizen of the Dominican Republic who was convicted of endangering the welfare of a 15-year-old girl.
- A citizen of Mexico who was convicted of raping an adult woman.

ICE officers have transported six of those arrested to an ICE detention facility in New Jersey. These aliens will be scheduled for hearings before an immigration judge. One alien was arraigned in federal court in White Plains on a false statement charge in connection with a naturalization application, a felony offense which carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment.

ICE has also lodged an ICE warrant against one alien currently in the custody of the Rockland County Sheriff's Department who is facing prosecution by the Rockland County District Attorney's Office on rape and assault charges. This alien will also face removal from the country upon the resolution of his criminal case.

Ficke thanked the Rockland County Sheriff's Department, Probation Department, Intelligence Center and the Spring Valley Police Department for their participation in the enforcement action.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.